

BECERRA & BINGAMAN INTRODUCE TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—With Tax Day upon us, Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, will introduce the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2010 in the House of Representatives. Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM), a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, will introduce an identical companion bill in the Senate. Rep. Becerra and Senator Bingaman have long worked together to champion the rights of taxpayers, particularly those with modest incomes.

“The Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2010 will give America’s working families the much needed support and resources they need to complete the tax filing process,” Rep. Becerra said.

“This common sense legislation clarifies the rights and responsibilities of all taxpayers, improves taxpayer services and provides better oversight of paid tax preparers.”

“Our tax system is dependent on taxpayers being able to receive the best advice and assistance possible. And Congress must ensure that we do not leave taxpayers vulnerable to abuses from those masquerading as tax professionals,” Sen. Bingaman said. “Our bill goes a long way toward ensuring that taxpayers in New Mexico and across the country are able to prepare and file their tax returns each year in a fashion that is fair, reasonable, and affordable.”

Among its widely supported provisions, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2010 would:

- Require the IRS to publish a Taxpayer Bill of Rights that clarifies the rights and obligations of American taxpayers.
- Create a grant program that authorizes \$35 million for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and increases the authorization for Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) to \$20 million. The bill also authorizes the IRS to refer taxpayers to LITCs, which can assist taxpayers with disputes they may have with the IRS.
- Enhance oversight of paid tax return preparers and refund anticipation loan products to help prevent harm that may be inflicted by unscrupulous and untrained preparers.
- Enhance modest-income taxpayers’ access to financial institutions.

Nina Olson, the National Taxpayer Advocate, praised the Becerra-Bingaman bill

“The Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2010 incorporates many proposals I have made and would substantially benefit our nation's taxpayers. It would establish a simple statement of taxpayer rights and obligations, show congressional support for regulating tax return preparers, protect taxpayers from unwarranted lien-filings that can destroy their financial viability and impair their future tax compliance, expand programs for low income taxpayers, and require the IRS to conduct studies designed to deliver refunds more quickly and thereby reduce the market for Refund Anticipation Loans,” Olson said.

To learn more, [click here to visit Rep. Becerra's Taxpayer Bill of Rights web page.](#)